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Information

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	USSR (Black Sea)	REPORT	
SUBJECT	1. Naval Exercises in the Black Sea 2. Port of Odessa	DATE DISTR.	14 October 1955
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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE

- On 21 August 1954, [redacted] ship, en route [redacted] to Odessa, was blown off course to a point three miles off the Crimean coast near Balaklava. A small patrol vessel ordered the ship into Yalta but before the vessel arrived in Yalta the same patrol boat countermanded the order and [redacted] ship resumed its course for Odessa. The patrol vessel was equipped with radar and armed with 20 millimeter machine guns. 25X1
- On Khersonesskiy Cape near the light on that promontory, there was a large airfield, on which were several jet aircraft. Five such craft were flying over the field. They had sharply swept-back wings with a red star but no numbers on them. About ten aircraft were visible on the field. There was a row of hangars, arranged one after another so that it was impossible to count them. There was a long runway from which airplanes were taking off. They emitted a red smoke (sic) and were airborne in a very short space of time. 25X1
- At about 1500 hours, in position N 44-36. E 32-48. [redacted] ship encountered four cruisers [redacted]. They were all of the same class. They each had twin turrets set one above the other both forward and aft much like the Italian ZARA Class (sic), several small antiaircraft guns of undetermined caliber amidships, twin-mount 40 millimeter guns distributed everywhere, and depth charge throwers with depth charges at the stern. These vessels had a plain mast forward and aft. The foremast was equipped with a large crescent screen radar antenna. 25X1
- Accompanying the cruisers were four destroyers [redacted]. Each of them was armed with one gun in the bow and another in the stern like the Italian IQUQ-Class destroyer (sic), a few machine guns of approximately 40 millimeter caliber, a large number of single-mount machine guns, two torpedo tubes on each side, and depth charges on double tracks in the stern. Each of these vessels was equipped with radar. 25X1

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(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#".)

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5. With these ships was a submarine [] which was about 73 meters long and had no guns or radar. It was apparently a hull for drills. 25X1
6. This formation was engaged in combined operations with about ten jet airplanes like those seen at Khersonesskiy Cape. At 2300 hours, there was another formation conducting exercises with jet planes near position N 45-45, E 31-25. There were about six vessels in this group but darkness precluded identification.
7. [] ship arrived in Odessa at 1355 hours on 22 August and anchored in the roadstead to await the pilot. At 1600 hours, a woman doctor and the pilot came aboard. At 1630 hours, with the medical examination complete, the ship headed for the harbor. At 1700 hours, the inspection team consisting of 12 or 13 men commanded by a captain boarded the ship to make an inspection, which lasted an hour. The inspection was meticulous and extended to all parts of the ship. The police captain wore a dark brown uniform, a visored cap with a simple red star on the front, and shoulderboards with three small five-pointed stars. The lieutenant wore a white jacket with shoulder boards bearing two stars, dark brown trousers, and a cap identical to the one worn by the captain. The soldiers wore a cap similar to that of their officers and dark brown jackets and trousers. One of them had two stripes on his shoulderboards. 25X1
8. Loading operations began at 2015 hours and were completed at 0230 the following morning. About 2050 tons of anthracite coal were taken aboard. The ship then waited at the quay until noon when bunkering began. Eighty tons of bunker coal were taken on and the operation was completed at 1330 hours.
9. The departure inspection was conducted by a different, more severe group than those who conducted the arrival inspection. The vessel left the port at 1720 hours, on 23 August.
10. Vessels in the port included the following: (see sketch)
- A. Area reserved for ships being repaired. There were about 10 or 12 Soviet ships of various types tied side by side bow to the quay.
- B. [] the quay was piled with coal. 25X1
- C. Quay space occupied by a Soviet steamer discharging coal, [] steamer loading miscellaneous goods, and a liner which operates between the port and the East. 25X1
- D. Training ship, the ex-COLUMBO.
- E. Quay piled high with coal.
- F. Same as E.
- G. Soviet cruiser, similar to QUARTO Class (sic), [] in perfect operating condition. 25X1
11. The quays are served by a single-track rail line and several all steel dump cars of 30 tons capacity were at hand. On quay B were five luffing jib cranes which moved on rails. They were very sturdy and averaged ten-tons capacity. Electric outlets, from which the cranes drew their power, were located on the surface of the quay. The water on the quay was not good. It was delivered from two-inch outlets at a rate of from five to eight tons per hour. Bitts were located at about 30 meter intervals.
12. The crew was allowed ashore and received good treatment.

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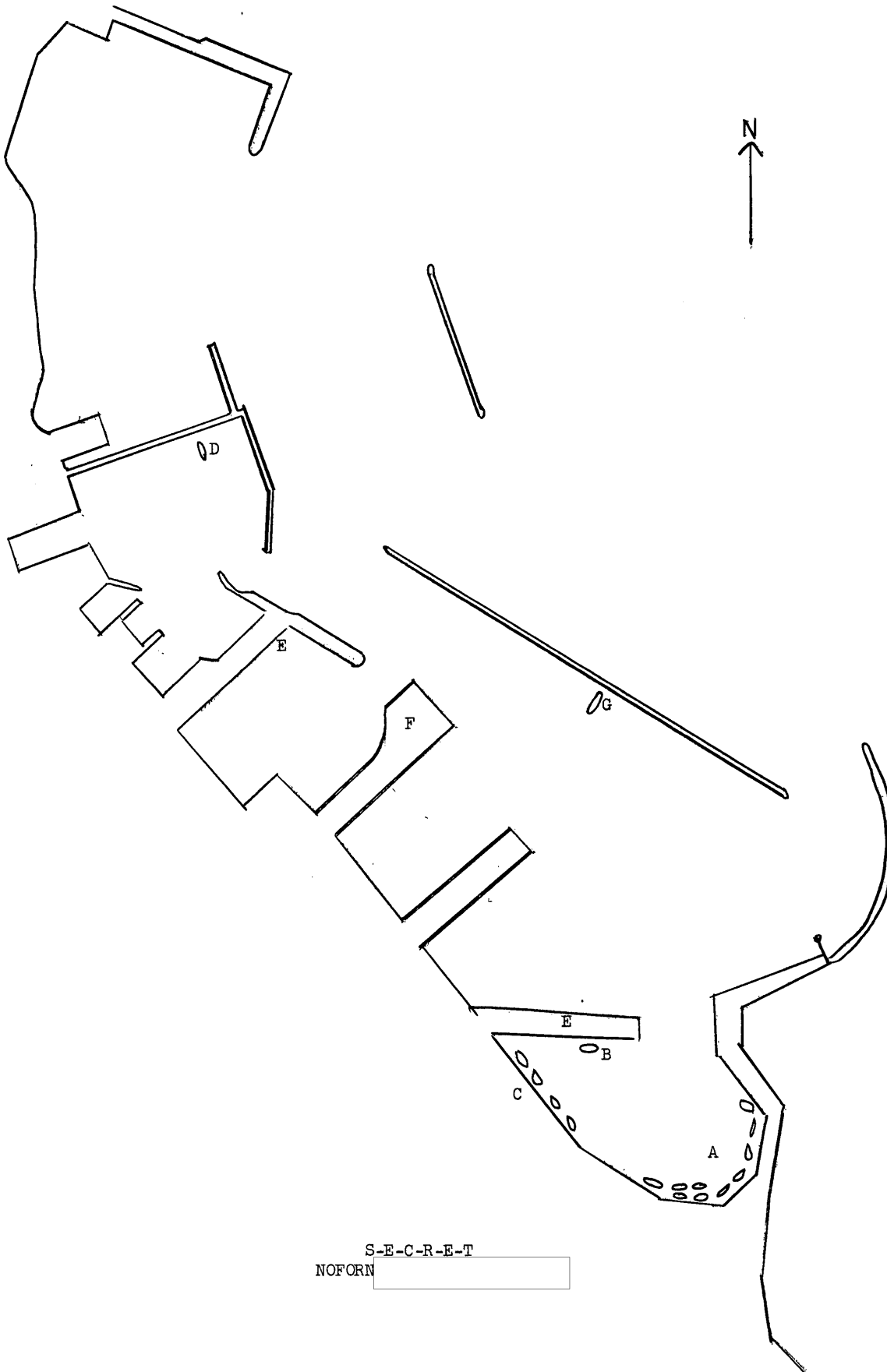
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Sketch of Port of Odessa



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